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### Crackdown on foreign workers

News in Focus, Page 7

### The new, mature Shalom Hanoch

Time Out

### Saddam Hussein's fatal family feud

The Magazine

Index

Business	13
News in Focus	7
Opinion	4
Shabbat Shalom	11
Sports	21
World News	6

## Sharansky, peeved, to boycott today's cabinet meeting

By SARAH HONIG  
Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky of Yisrael Ba'Aliya will boycott today's weekly cabinet session to underscore his serious rift with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, until recently a close personal friend.

The Prime Minister's Office made no less than 10 attempts to reach Sharansky by phone, but all of the calls were answered by his staff with the claim that "the minister is too busy to talk."

Netanyahu sought to belittle the rift and describe it as "an artificial crisis which appeared at a curious time that happens to coincide with the fact that leading Yisrael Ba'Aliya members are being questioned about their links to [Zvi Ben-Ari, also known as] Gregory Lerner."



Natan Sharansky (Ariel Jerozolimski)

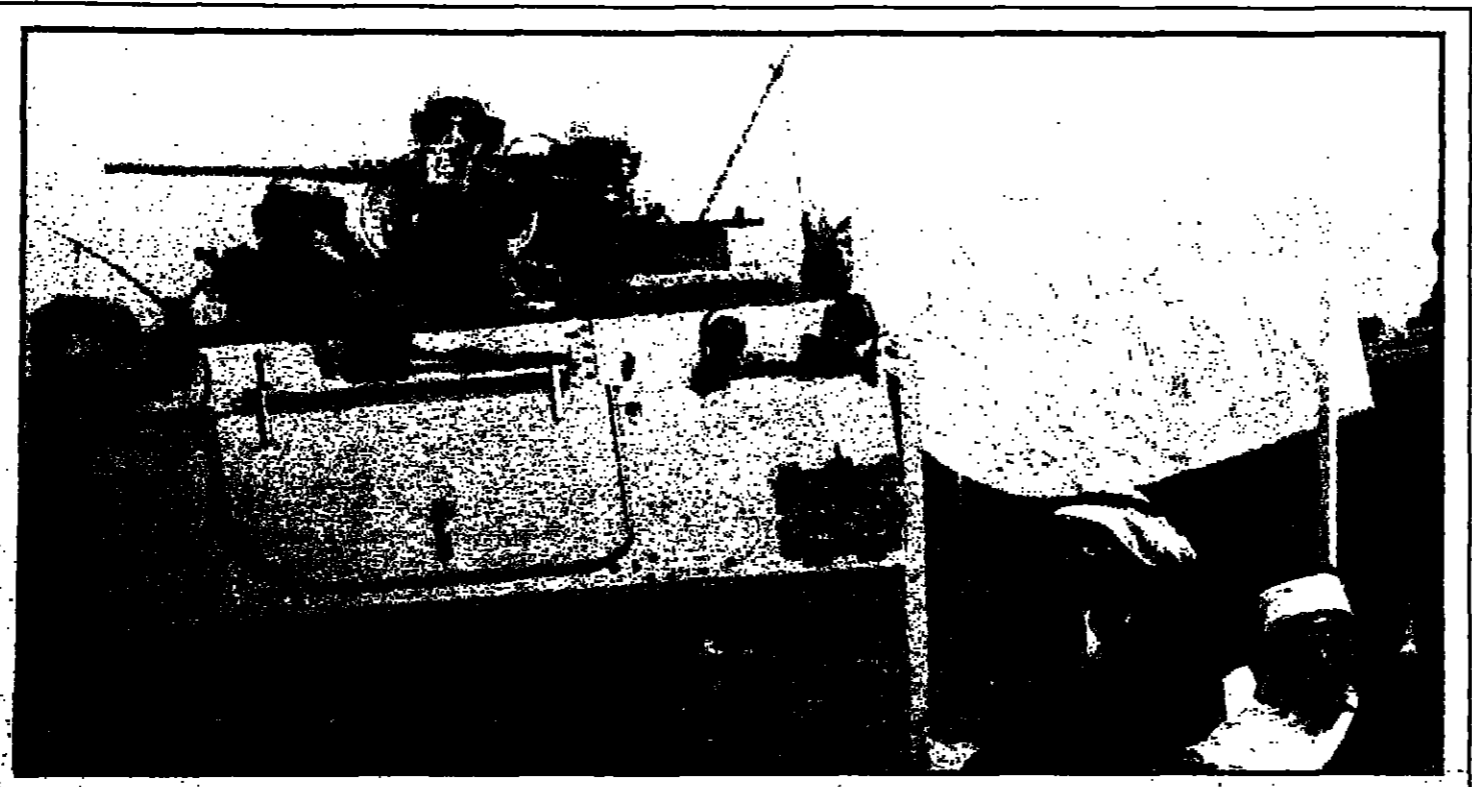
to live up to his undertakings." In Netanyahu's office, however, it was argued that "he had fulfilled all obligations to Yisrael Ba'Aliya, as to the other coalition partners, within the limitations imposed by budgetary constraints."

by the committee as its most outstanding recent achievement. Inbar had not been chosen by the committee as its most outstanding recent achievement.

people, almost as a psychological proof to its constituency both here and in Russia of its success and thereby also the success of the immigration from the CIS.

### Rioting erupts in Gaza

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN  
Fierce violence broke out between Palestinians and IDF soldiers in two areas of Gush Katif yesterday, and resulted in the death of Abdel Karim Karwari, the injury of two Palestinians, and the blocking of the area's main road for several hours.



An IDF armored personnel carrier rolls into position near the Morag junction in the Gaza Strip yesterday, as Palestinians riot over land confiscation. (Reuters)

## El-Baz fails in talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY  
Egyptian mediator Osama el-Baz failed to bring Israeli and Palestinian officials back to the negotiating table yesterday, despite consecutive sessions with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

ing teams, led by cabinet secretary Danny Naveh and PA chief negotiator Saeb Erekat. But neither Netanyahu nor Arafat briefed their respective personnel, presumably because no new diplomatic ground had been broken.

### 'Post' reporter wins JDC journalism award

By Jerusalem Post Staff  
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has awarded Jerusalem Post defense correspondent Arieh O'Sullivan its newly inaugurated Smolar Award for Journalism on Israel-Diaspora Relations.

insight to Israeli readers about just how important Israel is to Jewish life in the Diaspora," Goldman said. "It can contribute to a great understanding among Israelis of the sensitivities that Diaspora Jews bring to their relationship with Israel."

## Is the government ready for the 2000 problem?

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN  
When January 1, 2000, arrives, Israelis could wake up to find that their national insurance benefits are not arriving, their income tax file is nowhere to be found, and their education records indicate they never completed the first grade.

computer system; divert in-house resources so that computer technicians spend their days going through an organizations' tens of thousands of lines of code; or buy appropriate software solutions and external advisory services.

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# Gathering of the workers

The government may be cracking down on illegal foreign workers with mass arrests and deportations. Larry Derfner meets foreigners in hiding.

Donna (not her real name), a Ghanaian who works illegally cleaning houses around the Dan Region, was walking near Tel Aviv's Shalom Tower on the Wednesday morning before last when she saw a group of black men being arrested.

"I saw my husband," she said. "They were putting handcuffs on him. The Africans were struggling, and the men arresting them were shouting and pushing them into a car."

Donna brought her one-year-old daughter, who was crying, up to the arresting officers - inspectors for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. "I pleaded with them not to take my husband because I cannot take care of my baby alone," she said.

But her husband, also a Ghanaian housecleaner, and the others were driven off to a tent camp set up at Ramle's Ayalon Prison, for illegal workers bound for deportation.

Her husband tells Donna in his phone calls that he lives on "bread and tomatoes" at the camp. She is taking up a collection among her friends to raise the \$1,000 or so it will take to buy him a plane ticket back to Ghana.

Many illegals at Ayalon have been there for months without trial, waiting to raise the plane fare home, said Yaffi Vaisbuch, who has defended a number of foreign workers, mainly Romanians, as a court-appointed attorney. "They are being held in administrative detention, and I'm sorry to say that it is legal," she added.

Israel is prepared to pay for the laborers' plane tickets home, Vaisbuch explained, but this takes many months of bureaucratic arrangements, so the workers are left either to come up with the money themselves or to languish in a tent prison.

Government officials have warned that deportations of illegal foreign workers were about to be stepped up to 500 a month, and the campaign appears to have begun. African workers say the pressure cooled off this past week but the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs told *Ha'aretz*, last Friday that 273 foreign illegals had been arrested and served with deportation orders in the previous two weeks.

They were picked up on their way to catch buses to work in the mornings, mainly around the old Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, where Donna and many tens of thousands of other foreign workers, legal and illegal, live. The arrests were carried out by

plainclothes ministry inspectors in unmarked cars, accompanied by police.

Only African workers were interviewed for this story, but Romanians, Turks, South Americans and other nationals were also caught in the sweep.

African prisoners have told community members that brutal methods, including the use of Mace and hand-held electric stun devices, were sometimes used in the arrests, and that food is scarce and conditions are extremely harsh at the Ayalon tent camp.

As much as possible, they are staying inside their apartments, even if it means missing work, for fear of being picked up. They say their countries' embassies have not been able to do anything to protect them.

Asked to discuss the arrest campaign, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs spokesman's office said: "We do not wish to be interviewed on this matter at this time."

But during a tour of south Tel Aviv last summer, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai was quoted as saying: "There is a disturbing phenomenon in the poor neighborhoods of Tel Aviv. You go into some of them, and you think you're in Africa instead of the State of Israel."

At the time, Yishai recommended setting up a transit camp near Ben-Gurion Airport as an easy collection point from which the illegals could be deported. But the government shot down the idea, with some ministers saying it evoked images of a "concentration camp," and that it would bring Israel bad press.

Yet a transit camp for future deportees is what has been set up at Ayalon.

"It's not the kind of place anybody should have to stay in for even one day," said "David," another Ghanaian illegal worker who is in contact with arrestees and their families.

"They live in tents, without the facilities of other prisons, and they don't get much to eat," said Vaisbuch. "Is this what they deserve for the 'crime' of coming to Israel to work?"

Many, if not most, African laborers have been in Israel for a few years, and are married with children. They came here on tourist or work visas, and remained after their permits expired.

They complain that if they must be deported, they should at least be given a few months' notice so they



Illegal foreign workers await deportation at a tent camp at Ramle's Ayalon Prison.

(Dan Ostendyver/Israel Sun)

## Here to stay?

By DAN IZENBERG

There are no signs that any of the groups of foreign workers in Israel today have become permanent ethnic communities, says Hebrew University sociologist Eric Cohen.

However, Cohen warned that the situation could change in time, just as it had in other countries like Germany, where foreign workers eventually established a permanent community.

Another researcher, economist Ephraim Kleiman, warned that the virtually unlimited potential supply of foreign labor could create a "critical mass" of foreign workers in Israel. At that point, the foreign population would be big enough to create self-help and cultural institutions which would, in turn, become a magnet for additional members of the community who would come for more than purely economic reasons.

Cohen and Kleiman spoke this week at a public seminar on foreign workers organized by the Harvey L. Silbert Center for Israel Studies at the Hebrew University.

Researcher Ze'ev Rozenak said that despite reports of as many as 250,000 legal and illegal foreign workers in Israel, the only reliable figure is the one published by the Central Bureau of Statistics - 130,000 legal and illegal workers.

According to Cohen, the four main ethnic groups

among the foreign workers in Israel are the Thais, the Romanians, the Filipinos and the West Africans.

Cohen, who has conducted extensive research on the foreign workers, draws the following conclusions about the different groups:

- The Thais: There are about 18,500 Thai workers, most of them in the agricultural sector. They come to Israel legally, under the patronage of the moshav movement. Almost all of them are men aged 20 to 30. There are a few families among them but almost no children, because of an unwritten understanding that the women will not become pregnant. The agricultural workers live on the moshavim and are assigned to individual farmers. They have no work mobility and have little freedom of movement in their leisure time. The Thais are not organized and have no social institutions. They invariably return home at the end of their two-year contract.
- The Romanians: There are an estimated 60,000 Romanian workers in Israel. Almost all of them have come to Israel legally, through the auspices of the Contractors' Association. Almost all are male. The few Romanian women have entered the country illegally.

- There are almost no families and no children in the community. Most of the men are in their 20s and 30s, but some are as old as 50.

See FOREIGN, Page 10

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# Hebron to Har Homa:



Terror: Suicide bombing at Tel Aviv's Apropro cafe. (Bryan McBarney)



He promised to be a prime minister for all the people, to bring a secure peace, and to privatize, privatize, privatize. One year after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu took office, what's the score?



## The view from afar

## A secure peace?

**B**inyamin Netanyahu had a tough act to follow when he took over as prime minister one year ago.

### Jay Bushinsky looks at how Netanyahu has fared on the diplomatic front

almost impossible to achieve peace with the Netanyahu government for two reasons:

The Clinton administration had been infatuated by the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Washington was unequivocally enthusiastic about Labor's willingness to trade land for peace and achieve a pragmatic accommodation with the Palestinians. The intimacy and camaraderie with which the Clinton administration worked with Labor government officials, particularly Peres and his then-deputy, Yossi Beilin, were unparalleled in modern Middle Eastern history. But what troubled the Americans most after Netanyahu's victory was the new government's unfamiliarity with the technical aspects of the peace process.

and the release of Palestinian women prisoners. But this was squandered in unfavorable decisions - like the opening of the Western Wall tunnel exit and the start of construction at Har Homa.

"One: the basis upon which the current governing coalition is built, which makes it impossible for Netanyahu should he wish to move the process forward by halting the building of settlements on Palestinian land....

### Netanyahu said he'd get tough on terror. Do Israelis feel safer - and are they? Arieh O' Sullivan reports

**T**en weeks after a Hamas terrorist blew himself up in the Apropro cafe in Tel Aviv, killing three women, a satisfied customer gets up, passes the front counter on his way out, gives the thumbs-up, winks and says: "It was a blast!"



The handshake that wasn't supposed to be: Netanyahu with Arafat in October.

"The new negotiators were totally unaware of the progress that had been made, the texts that had been approved and the understandings reached before they came upon the diplomatic scene," one highly placed source said. "The Palestinians were surprised at the degree of their unpreparedness and resented the need to virtually start again from scratch."

There were other diplomatic flash points that many felt were simply unnecessary, like the dispute with Jordan over water transfer, resolved only at a summit meeting between Netanyahu and King Hussein last month. More subtly, however, is the problem of savoir-faire, or grace, as interpreted by foreign friends, be they Western or Middle Eastern.

"Two: the nature of Netanyahu as an individual, his background, his personal qualities... the fact is that he is strange to the area and its culture."

"You see?" asks Haim Kodman, the chain-smoking day manager of the chic cafe. "Even though people may joke about it, it's still on their minds and it's having an effect on their sense of personal safety."

But the Americans made the adjustment - to the extent that, when Netanyahu came out with his "Allon-Plus" plan earlier this month, the State Department's initial reaction was cautious, but not negative. US officials recalled having rejected the original Allon Plan as an unworkable proposition, but are not saying the same of its embryonic offspring.

True, the president has a commitment to Israel that borders on the mystical, these observers say. He is emotionally involved in Israel's welfare, security and development. But that does not mean that an occasional Israeli guest, regardless of rank, can blithely call him "Bill." The sources note that even Hillary Clinton refers to him as "Mr. President" in public.

At the bilateral level, for example, Israeli-British trade is steadily increasing and is likely to keep growing under Britain's newly elected Labor government. But this does not tempt the Foreign Office into reconsidering its assessment of the Jerusalem issue, still regarding all areas of eastern Jerusalem as occupied territory.

Indeed, a year after Binyamin Netanyahu squeezed into power on his platform of "secure peace," do Israelis feel safer - and are they? A number of decisive events have shaped Israelis' sense of personal safety over the past year. A few weeks after Netanyahu took office, a Hamas terrorist cell killed five Israelis in two drive-by shootings near Beit Shemesh.

Nevertheless, even such a cautious approach by administration officials comes after a year of diplomatic hard knocks. Both American and British analysts of the Netanyahu government's performance during its first year agree on one thing: the government accrued diplomatic credit for the Hebron redeployment

A Palestinian intellectual contends that Netanyahu's main shortcoming is that he lacks "mujamala" - a hard-to-define Arab quality rendered in Hans Wehr's *Dictionary of Written Arabic* as "civility, amiability and flattery." He regrets the fact that few, if any, of the prime minister's top aides are conversant in Arab social norms and modes of personal behavior.

Some European diplomatic sources believe Netanyahu's two biggest mistakes during his first year were the opening of the Western Wall tunnel exit and the start of the Har Homa construction. The tunnel incident was compounded, they say, by the failure to consult with the Jordanians, who are adamant about their special status with regard to the Temple Mount.

The riots that erupted after the opening of the Western Wall tunnel exit in September hit the country in the face like ice water. For the first time, IDF soldiers were attacked by members of the Palestinian Police, causing a severe crisis in confidence from which neither side has fully recovered.

"After all, the situation on the ground has changed and we have to take that into account, as does 'Allon-Plus,'" a diplomatic source said. "But the Americans made the adjustment - to the extent that, when Netanyahu came out with his 'Allon-Plus' plan earlier this month, the State Department's initial reaction was cautious, but not negative. US officials recalled having rejected the original Allon Plan as an unworkable proposition, but are not saying the same of its embryonic offspring."

One year after his installation as Israel's prime minister, the Arabic-language media by and large have been depicting him as an enemy of the Arab nation. One seasoned Arab commentator, however, views this as having nothing to do with Netanyahu himself; he attributes this to the prevailing Arab notion that Labor was the Arabs' only partner in the regional arena. He contends that the anti-Netanyahu hostility began well before the 1996 election.

These sources view Netanyahu's use of Egypt as a go-between with the PA as "an astute move" that transformed the Egyptians' anti-Israel image to that of mediator and peacemaker.

Then there was the unexpected buildup of Syrian commando units on the Golan Heights; for the first time in years, IDF intelligence believed it was possible that Syria would launch a war. This was followed by the redeployment in Hebron and the decision in March to begin construction on Jerusalem's Har Homa.

And like the victorious Likudniks, who were unshooked in the ongoing diplomatic process, the PA's minions, too, had "failed to prepare themselves for the Likud option," the commentator says. He believes that it took them 12 months "to learn how to live with Netanyahu," an interesting observation given that the Palestinians and Israel, spurred by the Egyptians, are now trying to find a basis for resuming talks after several months of stalemate.

But Walid Awad, who serves as a consultant to the PA, doubts the Egyptians will succeed. His assessment of Netanyahu and his cabinet reflects some of the notions that have become fashionable throughout the Arab world.

Germany is much more outspokenly supportive than is Britain, and much less critical of Netanyahu's performance as prime minister. In a speech delivered in Jerusalem in March, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said: "Germany is today - after the US - Israel's most important foreign partner. Of this we are proud. This relationship with the Jewish people, the friendship the US and the special relations with France - have become axiomatic for us."

Days later, the suicide bomber killed three and wounded 47 in the Apropro cafe. A month later, two suicide bombers botched their attempts to hit Israeli buses in the Gaza Strip.

But Walid Awad, who serves as a consultant to the PA, doubts the Egyptians will succeed. His assessment of Netanyahu and his cabinet reflects some of the notions that have become fashionable throughout the Arab world. "It is not a secret that a majority of Palestinians - officials and otherwise - believe that it is

Netanyahu's visit to Bonn was a festive occasion, without the criticism and skepticism that have been his lot at home, and his German hosts regretted that the violence following the opening of the tunnel exit forced him to cut short the visit.

According to the survey, conducted by Prof. Asher Arian, 65 percent of those questioned believed that the PLO could control terror, up from 43% in 1996. The poll found that 70% of the public believed that the Oslo Accords would contribute to Israel's security - something Arian attributes to Netanyahu's declared policy of proceeding to implement the accords.

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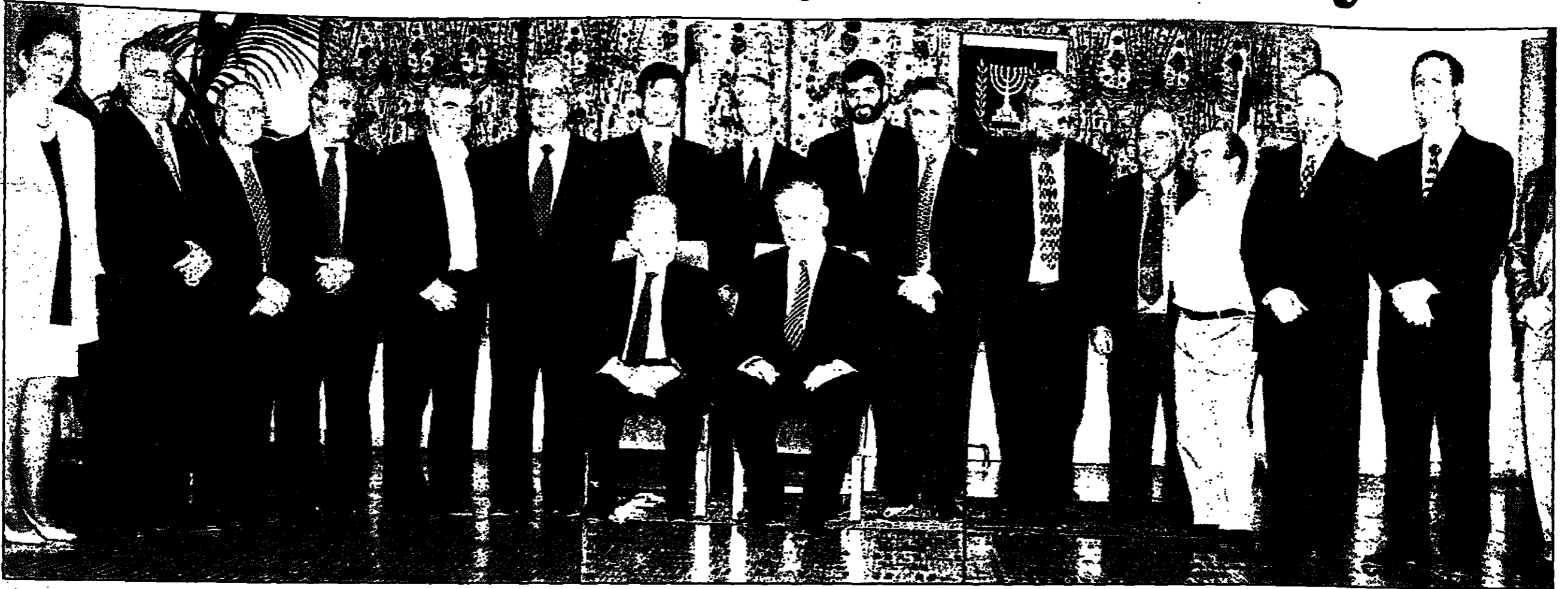
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# Binyamin Netanyahu's first year



(Left): Palestinian Police enter Hebron following the IDF withdrawal in January; (above): Class of '96: The original Netanyahu cabinet at the president's residence last June.

(Isaac Harari)

## Who's feeling the pinch?

The parents of some 50 retarded children were told at a meeting with the head of the Jerusalem municipal welfare committee on Sunday that, because of budget cuts, their children would not undergo the final diagnosis needed before they could be placed in any formal educational structure or shelter.

"People were furious," said Barbara Epstein, director of Community Advocacy. "There was yelling and screaming. You have parents who don't know what they are going to do with their children."

These families are among 250 whom, according to press reports, are unable to institutionalize their children because of the lack of government funds. In the best-case scenario, these children will "only" place enormous strain on the family; in the worst, they will endanger themselves and those around them. The plight of these families highlights problems plaguing the social welfare policy under the Netanyahu government. A tight budget and an economic philosophy of privatization means that the screws are being tightened, with the disadvantaged being among the first to feel the pinch.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu rode to power in the last elections, as Menachem Begin did in 1977, with the help of the development towns and disadvantaged neighborhoods. In the first heady days after the elections, he promised to be the prime minister of the entire nation: secular and religious, Jews and Arabs, urban and development-town residents, the strong and the weak.

The weak, Epstein said, are still waiting. "There has been no improvement under Netanyahu," said Epstein, whose organization has offices in Jerusalem, Acre and Beersheba that

The health, education and welfare landscape under Netanyahu is bleak, but under Labor the situation was not that much better, Herb Keinson reports

help citizens fight for social rights and lobby for improved legislation.

"The whole budget process showed that the government's approach to social welfare is to try and cut-back on entitlement payments," she said, using the government's aborted attempt to charge a fee for every doctor's visit as an illustration. Although this plan, which Community Advocacy lobbied heavily against, was not adopted, she said it reveals a reflex of making cuts in areas that will impact heavily on those who can least afford them. "Ten or 30 shekels a visit may not sound much to many people," she said, "but it hurts the poor."

Another example of this reflex, according to Epstein, is the cancellation of the Veteran Citizens Law, which anchored into legislation senior citizen discounts for everything from municipal tax breaks to transportation subsidies and cheaper tickets to cultural events. Now that the law has been repealed, she said, the decision to retain these benefits is with the relevant ministries. "But when something like this goes from being law, to being up to the goodwill of the ministry, then it is in a different category altogether and can be done completely away with fairly easily."

Many people, Epstein said, are falling through the cracks in the lurch toward privatization. One realm where this is readily evident is in public housing.

"There is no building of public housing," she said. "Six hundred people in Jerusalem have been approved for public-housing apartments, but there is no housing available. The government's policy is to encourage private building and to give mortgages or rental subsidies. The problem is that the housing subsidies don't come close to equaling the rental payments. Under public housing, people would pay NIS 100 for an apartment. Now they may get NIS 600 a month rental subsidy, but the cheapest apartment in Jerusalem is \$450 (NIS 1,500). It doesn't cover the rent." Furthermore, she said, the NIS 70,000 mortgages available to young couples have not been updated in three years, and are not keeping pace with real-estate prices.

Though the overall picture Epstein paints of the health, education and welfare landscape under Netanyahu is bleak, she said that the situation under Labor was not that much better. Barbara Swirski, director of the Adva Center, an "action oriented" policy analysis center based in Tel Aviv, echoes Epstein's sentiment. "I don't think there is a major difference [in the two parties] regarding social policy," she said. "The leading economic voices in both parties are advocates of free-market economy."

"It is common knowledge that Netanyahu's economic plan in July 1996 was left there by the

Labor party. He didn't just come into office and then put forward his own economic plan. Both parties advocate the privatization of the economy, and advocate cutting spending because it is bad for the economy." In fact, she said, there is more of a social lobby within the Likud-Gesher ranks than there is within Labor.

As far as expenditure on welfare is concerned, in 1996, the National Insurance Institute payments increased, but that has more to do with demographics and eligibility requirements than with a change of policy, Swirski said. She said the budget of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs increased in 1996 by about 1 percent, and is now some NIS 2.8 billion out of a more than NIS 200 billion budget.

Swirski said that one area where Labor spending outstripped Netanyahu's was in education. In 1996, she said, there was a 5 percent drop in the number of school hours. According to Yaakov Kop, director of the Jerusalem-based Center for Social Policy Studies, between 1992 and 1995 there was a mass infusion of funding into the educational system. This did not, he points out, necessarily translate into smaller classes or longer hours, because much of the money was eaten up by salary increases. The argument could be made, however, that a better-paid teacher is a happier teacher, and that a happier teacher is better for the students.

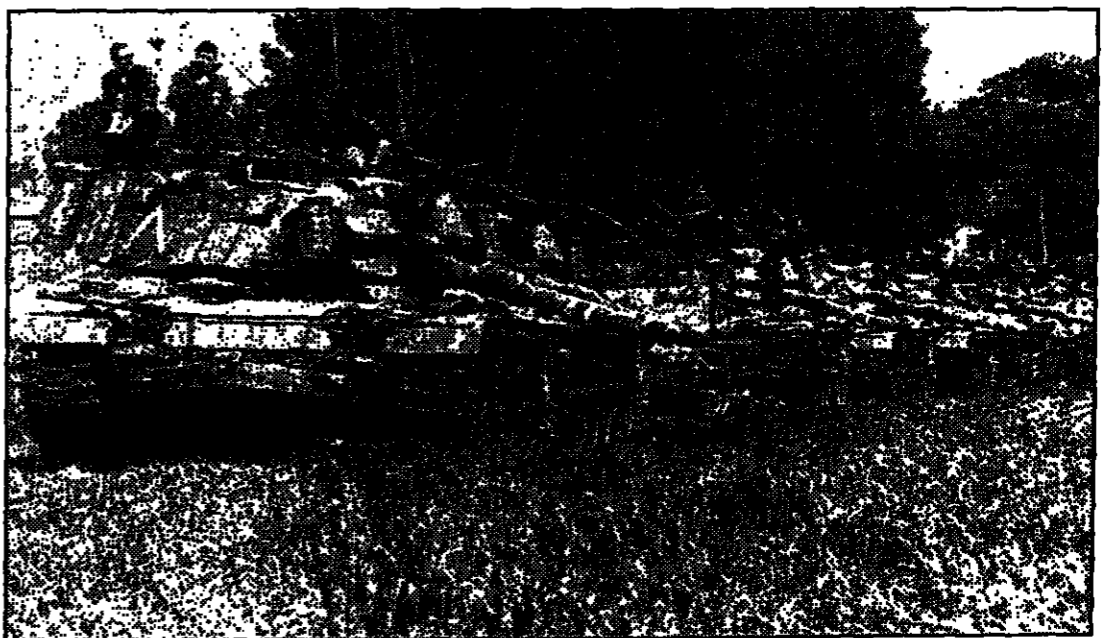
According to Kop, another area where Netanyahu's performance is lagging behind is unemployment. From 1992 to 1996, unemployment - during a period of massive immigrant absorption and increased investment because of the peace process - dropped from 12 to 6 percent, while the figure last year stood at 7 percent, and is rising.

See PINCH, Page 12



Face off with Palestinian demonstrators at Har Homa.

(Brian Hendler)



Bracing for violence: IDF tanks stationed outside of Nablus in April.

(Bryan McBurney)

## Economic anticlimax

Unlike the diplomatic fanfare, military tension, and political scandals which have highlighted Binyamin Netanyahu's first year in office, his economic record has so far been anything but dramatic. So much so, in fact, that when contrasted with his pretentious election promises, it seems the ultimate anticlimax of his incumbency.

Netanyahu adeptly handled the one financial crisis which erupted since he took office. But his economic performance has been marred by a perplexing lack of a detailed road map, a basic problem with the populist elements in his coalition, and a relationship of mutual mistrust with his finance minister. For now, all this results in a failure to deliver the kind of Thatcherite reforms which he repeatedly promised prior to and since his election.

The one financial crisis which afflicted Netanyahu was the near-collapse of the bond market last July. To be sure, that mayhem was a merely the final overflow of a merely which had been simmering continuously even since January '95, when provident-fund redemptions exceeded deposits by NIS 600 million.

During the last 17 months of Labor's reign the public had withdrawn an aggregate NIS 8.7 billion from the provident funds, which are heavily invested in state

The government has been reacting to, rather than initiating, economic change, writes Amotz Asa-El

bonds and have traditionally been the Israeli middle class's major long-term investment instrument. Whether due to inflationary expectations, or because of a belief that the Oslo process would harm the economy, the public accelerated its redemption of provident funds, ultimately sending bond prices diving. Faced with that crisis, Netanyahu, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and Finance Minister Dan Meridor concocted a typically Israeli improvisation, which had the central bank buy the market's surplus supplies while assigning a hastily assembled committee to seek ways to cure the market's long-term ills. In the short term that remedy worked; the bond market calmed

down and the public's trust in the provident funds was largely restored. However, those events were alarming for their revelation of an economically unarmed Netanyahu who assumed power pretty much short of contingency plans.

In sum, says economist Dan Galai, this government's economic performance has so far been dominated by reactions rather than by initiatives.

Indeed, the recommendations of the Brodet Committee have not been implemented to this day, primarily because of its members' failure to fathom the gap between Netanyahu's personal Milton Friedmanite faith, and his political allies' tax-and-spend commitments.

And so, when it came to Broder's recommendations on how to reform the financial markets, the blueprint - which would have offered the public a broader and deeper selection of long-term investment instruments - was aborted because a major component in it was a tax on short-term investments: the Pakam plans, which are popular among the working-class Israelis who form the backbone of Gesher and Shas voters.

A similar fate befell Meridor's well-intentioned plans to charge for doctor's visits and raise bus fares.

See ECO, Page 12

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# Sharing Jerusalem: Two Capitals for Two States

Israeli, Palestinian and international artists, musicians and peace activists join together to create a week of cultural and political events throughout East and West Jerusalem to build a bridge of peace and coexistence.

**Tuesday, 17 June, through Saturday, 21 June**

### Jazz Nights

**Aziza Mustafa-Zadeh**  
17 June, 21:30  
Gardens of the Ambassador Hotel

**Philip Catherine Trio**  
19 June, 21:30, Zig Zag Cafe.  
20 June, 21:30, Gardens of the Ambassador Hotel.

**Liz Magnes, Nadia Abboushi & Karim Abdel Latif**  
18 June, 21:30pm  
Gardens of the Ambassador Hotel.

**Tours of Jerusalem**  
Led by Israeli and Palestinian architects and historians.

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Tuesday, 17 June through Saturday, 21 June

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Al Wasiti Art Center. (02) 5822859

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Gallery Anadiel, close to New Gate in the Old City (02) 6282811

### International Poster Competition

Vino Vero, Hillel St. (02) 6221812 and the Ambassador Hotel

### Open Discussion between Israelis & Palestinians

Ambassador Hotel

**"Spirit of Jerusalem" 14:00-17:00, 18 June.**  
Speakers: Shulamit Aloni, Ofer Bronstein, Nazmi Jubeh, Hanan Ashrawi, Bernard Sabela & Alice Shalvi

**"Realities of Jerusalem" 10:00-13:00 19 June.**  
Speakers: M.K. Tamar Gozanky, Anat Hoffman, Zahira Kamal, Amal Khreshe, Khader Shuqirat & Danny Seidemann

**"Future of Jerusalem" 14:00-17:00 19 June.**  
Speakers: Meron Benvenisti, M.K. Naomi Chazan, M.K. Yael Dayan, Faisal Husseini, Riad Malki & Sari Nusseibeh

**Peace March from Damascus Gate to the Sultan's Pool - Saturday 21 June, 17:30.**

# Sinead O'Connor

## Sultan's Pool

### 21 June, 21:00

Tickets can be purchased at:  
**Jerusalem:** Bimot: 02-6240896 **Tel Aviv:** Kastel: 03-6044725  
 Le'am: 03-5236193 **Hadran:** 03-5279797 **Rokoko:** 03-5276677  
**Haifa:** Garber: 04-8388011 **Kupat Haifa:** 04-8662244

For more information:  
**Bat Shalom:** TEL (02) 5634791, FAX (02) 5617983  **Jerusalem Center for Women:** TEL (02) 5747068, FAX (02) 5747069  
 24 hour recorded information on the events: 055-332240

### FUNDS

## Suffering knows no season

By BEVERLEE BLACK

Why is it that as soon as the summer arrives and the temperature soars, donations to our Funds drop severely? I discussed this with a psychologist who immigrated here from Scotland and he said it may be linked to the theory that it's much more difficult to be poor in the rain and snow than in 30-degree sunshine.

To see a poor person shuffling along in disintegrating shoes in the sleet and slush seems to urge their more fortunate peers to dip their hands into their pockets.

But a toothache knows no season, summer camps for deprived children don't take place in the winter, cataract operations, glasses and hearing aids are needed all the year round, so our needs, as the go-between from you to those who require help, run from January through December.

Many of you are planning holidays abroad or visiting family back in the "old country" and the cost is quite considerable. Why not add another \$18 or even more to your summer vacation costs and send it to me for a good cause and go away feeling much better.

Remember, how much we do depends on you. Please give generously. Mail your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000. Our new phone number is 02-537-6528.

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New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 3,064	NIS 85,007
\$337	\$25,869.75

### FOREIGN

Continued from Page 7

Up to 20 percent of the Romanians, all of whom are brought to Israel to work with a specific building contractor, quit their job at some point and look for work elsewhere. Technically, they are illegal workers from that point on.

Outside of work, the Romanians are completely on their own. They live in poor accommodations and often get together to drink at local bars after work. Although some of the workers stay in Israel somewhat longer than their two-year permit, they all return home eventually, and many of them suffer from loneliness during their stay here.

The Filipinos: There are about 15,000 Filipino workers, most of them female care-givers. They arrive with permits but tend to stay much longer than two years and eventually go home. There is no central local agency responsible for the import of the Filipino workers. Theoretically, they arrive at the request of an individual family, although they frequently move from one employer to another. Most of the workers are women aged 20 to 50. The mothers among them usually leave their children behind. Those that give birth in Israel send their children home at the age of three. The living conditions of the Filipinos are relatively good. They live in their employers' homes and receive a decent salary. But because they are on duty 24 hours a day, many prefer to switch from care-giving to housecleaning.

The Filipinos are the best-organized of all the foreign workers. They have established regional associations and many of them belong to churches.

The West Africans from Ghana and Nigeria: There are 6,000 to 10,000 West Africans, most of them here illegally. About two-thirds of the community is male and there are many families with children.

Some of the children are enrolled in local schools but the families usually send them back home at the age of seven or eight. The African workers participate in the free labor market and, as such, make the best salaries — up to NIS 25 an hour (without social benefits). They are well organized as a community, with social activity revolving around churches, social clubs and a soccer league.

## A VERY DIFFERENT TWO DAYS ON THE GOLAN

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. We'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

We'll visit the museum at Kibbutz Tel Katzir, Mitzpe Nukhail, the Byzantine church of Kursi, Mount Bental, Kibbutz Afik, Emek Habacha. We'll pick blueberries to our heart's content, look at the re-flooded Hula, view Nebi Yehoshua, Tel Kadash, Ha'Eilat, the famous Bnot Ya'acov bridge, Khan Yarden, Kfar Hanassi and the wineries of Kibbutz Amiad. A truly magnificent tour. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the wolves of the Golan.

**The date:** Sunday-Monday, July 13-14.  
**The guide:** Israel Shalem.  
**The price:** NIS 595. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, lunch and dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch-box on the second.  
 Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible, by prior arrangement.  
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**SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074**  
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 Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

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## Security increased at Israeli, US embassies in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AP) - Thai police have tightened security at the US and Israeli embassies after a court upheld the death sentence of an Iranian man convicted of plotting to bomb Israel's embassy in 1994, newspapers reported yesterday.

Authorities took preventive measures to secure the embassies and diplomatic residences, fearing retaliation following an Appeals Court ruling affirming Hossein Shahriari Far's conviction last year for murder, intended sabotage, membership in a criminal gang and possession of bomb-making material.

The nature of the security measures was not specified. US Embassy officials refused to comment. A phone message at the Israeli Embassy said the mission was closed yesterday.

Witnesses identified Shahriari Far as the driver who abandoned a rental truck laden with explosives after an accident less than a kilometer from the Israeli Embassy. The strangled and beaten body of a rental company employee was found inside the truck.

Police experts said the bomb, similar to the one that severely damaged New York's World Trade Center in 1993, could have destroyed a large building.



**Flying the flag**  
 Members of the Zionist Youth Council march down Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan carrying the national flag yesterday to protest the burning of the flag on Lag Ba'omer. (Yoram Loeff)

Only 17 days remaining. Don't miss

## JERUSALEM A CAPITAL FOR ALL TIMES ROYAL CITIES OF THE BIBLICAL WORLD



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This exhibition made possible with the support of **POST**

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## Report: Hizbullah has long-range Katyushas

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah probably possesses long-range Katyusha rockets - capable of reaching Haifa's bayside suburbs - and may even have fired some of them during last April's Operation Grapes of Wrath, according to an article in the London-based *Foreign Report*.

The fortnightly newsletter said it had been informed at the time that a number of rockets had been fired deep into Israel - well beyond the 21 kilometer-range of the regular 122 mm. Katyusha.

These reports could not be confirmed at the time, the newsletter said. It noted, however, that officials in Israel began talking about the possibility that Hizbullah had acquired the long-range 240 mm. Katyusha rockets shortly after the operation ended.

Furthermore, according to the report, the IDF's Home Front Command was subsequently instructed to plan for the possibil-

ity of rocket attacks on Haifa's bayside suburbs.

According to *Foreign Report*, the head of Hizbullah in south Lebanon Sheikh Nabil Kaouk recently gave a strong hint that the organization does possess the long-range rockets.

Kaouk claimed in a lengthy interview, published a month ago in the *An-Nahr* Lebanese daily newspaper, that Hizbullah, a year after Grapes of Wrath, was better prepared to deal with Israeli attacks and "come up with some surprises."

He also maintained that Israel stopped its air raids on Beirut during last year's cross-border fighting, because of "unmistakable signals" sent by Hizbullah to Israel - apparently in the form of the long-range Katyusha rockets.

*Foreign Report* said it had heard some time ago of longer-range Iranian-produced Katyusha rockets being in Hizbullah's hands, and it seemed that the organization had received more of them.

## MA program starting in clinical embryology

By JUDY SIEGEL

The baby take-home rate of the country's two dozen in-vitro fertilization units is likely to rise significantly when the graduates of Israel's first MA program in clinical embryology and gametology reach the workplace.

Bar-Ilan University and the Herzliya Medical Centers (HMC) have announced the opening of such a program, one of the first three in the world. The 75 staffers of Israel's IVF clinics learned techniques on the job, as these developed and became much more sophisticated since the birth of the world's first IVF baby, Louise Brown, about two decades ago, said Dr. Yona Barak, HMC's chief biologist who has worked on the idea for two years.

Barak, national president of the Israel IVF Embryologist Society, says practical experience will be gained at the HMC's IVF lab. He expects the program to be taught in English and possibly Hebrew.

It has already attracted much interest from professionals in Turkey, and could be joined by Arabs from Middle Eastern countries as well, said Prof. Benjamin Bartoov, of Bar-Ilan, which will run the program's theoretical courses.

According to HMC president Dr. Aubrey Joffe, it's the first time that a private hospital has been accredited by an Israeli university to participate in a degree course. HMC has already helped establish IVF units in Russia and Turkey.

Similar programs have been started by Cambridge University in England and in Singapore, and another is due to open in Barcelona.

Barak says that staffers now working in IVF labs will be invited to take courses in the theoretical material, including the ethics of assisted reproductive technology, in order to earn MA degrees.

The majority of the applicants so far have been women, Bartoov said.

## Man drowns off TA beach

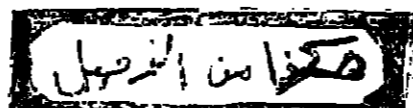
The body of a man washed ashore at Tel Aviv's Bogroshev Beach yesterday afternoon. The body was brought to the Abu Kabir Forensics Institute. It was determined that the man, in his 30s, had drowned and that there were no signs of violence on his body. Last night, police had still not succeeded in identifying the body. *Itim*

## Eight hurt in car accident

Eight people were injured, one of them moderately and the others lightly, when a car and a van collided in Lod yesterday evening. Police have not yet determined the cause of the crash. *Itim*

## Ben-Shabbat reelected Teachers' Union head

Avraham Ben-Shabbat was unanimously reelected to a second four-year term as the head of the Teachers' Union yesterday. *Jerusalem Post Staff*







**Hebrew Book Week**

Children look through the latest offerings at Jerusalem's Safra Square, where publishers and booksellers set up stalls for Hebrew Book Week which opened yesterday throughout the country. (Brian Henner)

# Cause of meningitis in Gaza unclear

Israeli team meets with PA officials

By JUDY SIEGEL

Most of the meningitis cases reported in the Gaza Strip during the past six months have been of the more benign viral variety and affected children aged two to four. This was revealed in a meeting yesterday between medical teams from the Health Ministry and the Palestinian Authority. The Israeli team, which returned from the Erez checkpoint to report back to Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, said none of the affected children were older than 10.

The cause of the infection, said Dr. Yitzhak Sever, health liaison to the PA, is unknown, but it is possible that the disease was spread by children's food, including milk

powder and ice cream reaching the autonomous areas. These foods do not reach Israel, he stressed.

As a result of the outbreak, which has so far affected 300 since January (150 of them in the past three weeks), the official in charge of public health in the PA called Health Ministry experts for consultations. The two teams worked "in full cooperation" and carried out a professional epidemiological study in the field, the ministry said.

Samples of spinal fluid taken from the children will be sent for examination at the ministry's central viral lab at Sheba Hospital. There, the specific pathogen will be identified during the next two weeks.

Due to fears that the source of infection was children's food, it was decided that the PA would carry out comprehensive tests of food products. PA officials will have an open line for consulting with Israeli experts whenever needed.

Ministry experts ruled out the need to stop the entry of Palestinian workers into Israel because the infection has affected only young children, and has struck inside Israel as well. During the first half of 1996, there were 77 reported cases inside Israel of viral meningitis, and 99 so far this year.

WEATHER		Golan
		14-22
Haifa	18-25	Tiberias
		18-30
Afula	17-29	
Samaria	16-24	
Tel Aviv	19-25	
Jerusalem	16-24	
Beerseheba	17-29	
Dead Sea	25-34	
Elit	24-34	

Forecast: Partly cloudy with a chance of rain. Shabbat: Partly cloudy to clear. No change

AROUND THE WORLD		LOW	F	H	WIND	PRECIP
Amsterdam	15	59	23	73		partly cloudy
Berlin	17	63	27	81		partly cloudy
Caro	19	65	30	85		partly cloudy
Copenhagen	13	56	24	75		clear
Geneva	19	66	28	82		cloudy
Hong Kong	26	79	35	95		cloudy
London	16	61	21	70		cloudy
Los Angeles	18	64	23	74		clear
Montreal	16	64	28	82		clear
New York	23	73	29	85		cloudy
Paris	15	59	23	73		cloudy
Sydney	07	45	20	68		cloudy
Tokyo	18	64	28	82		clear

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## Key Events: 1997 Global Board of Trustees Meetings and "Jewish Identity Leadership Mission" to Israel, Prague & Basel

### Monday, June 16

Dedication of the Frank and Vilma Martin (Szusz) Land of Israel Studies Department

Convocation Ceremony Conferring Honorary Doctorates upon

Lorenz Cederbaum      Yosef Kapach  
Donald J. Cohen      Mira Koschitzky  
Menachem Elon      Natan Sharansky  
Isidore Falk

Keynote Address: Elyakim Rubinstein, Attorney General of the State of Israel (7:30 pm, Bob Shapell Amphitheater on campus. Public invited. RSVP to tel. 03-531-8513)

### Tuesday, June 17

Reception at the President's Official Residence, Jerusalem

Dedication of the Aharon and Rachel Dahan Family Exodus Classroom Building

Dedication of the Rabbi Harry Wohlberg Chair in Biblical Commentary

### Wednesday, June 18

Dedication of the Arnold and Leona Finkler Hall of Human Rights

Dedication of the Jack and Pearl Resnick Institute for Advanced Technology Building

### Thursday, June 19

Convening Conference of the International Center for Jewish Identity

### Friday, June 20

Ceremony Conferring a Doctorate, Honoris Causa upon Mr. Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, in Prague

### Tuesday, June 24

Finals of the International Competition on Jewish Identity for Jewish youth from Israel and the Diaspora. Sponsored by Bar-Ilan University.

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## Israel 23rd in quality of life

By MARILYN HENRY

In an international ranking of quality of life, Israel is sandwiched between Hong Kong and Cyprus, according to the UN Human Development Index published yesterday in New York.

Canada, France, Norway, the US and Iceland had the highest ratings, according to the survey, which was conducted by the UN Development Program. The index used 1994 data on per capita income, education and life expectancy to calculate the rankings. Israel, straddling the line between industrial and developing nations, was ranked 23, below Greece and Italy, but above Singapore, Chile, South Korea and Argentina.

The highest ranking Arab states were Brunei Darussalam (38), Bahrain (43) and United Arab Emirates (44). The UN index showed uneven progress around the globe. Economic growth has raised the standard of living for 1.5 billion people. Adult illiteracy has been halved. Infant mortality has been cut by nearly three-fifths, and more than three-fourths of the world's population is expected to live to the age of 40.

The index fell in 30 countries. There was a stunning deterioration in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where 120 million people live in poverty, compared to 4 million in 1988, the report said.

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## PA: US vote on capital declaration of war

Palestinians yesterday described as a declaration of war a non-binding US House of Representatives resolution calling on President Bill Clinton to reaffirm that Jerusalem must remain Israel's "undivided capital."

"This decision will leave a dark shadow on security and stability in the Middle East and in Palestine. It is a clear call for violence and settlements at the same time," said Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, general secretary of the Palestinian Authority cabinet.

"Recognizing the annexation of Jerusalem to Israel and opening an embassy there without recognizing east Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine is a declaration of war on the Palestinian people," he said. (Reuters)

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